

Horehound



Herb

Flowers/Seedhead: Petals white. Flowers all year, mostly summer and autumn.

Description: Perennial spreading herb to 80 cm high. Leaves to 7 cm long, margins with rounded teeth; hairs on leaves and stems long and star-shaped. Fruit a burr with backward facing hooks. Seeds about 2mm long, with a roughened surface. Deeply rooted with woody taproot and fibrous lateral roots.

Distinguishing features: Distinguished by flowers in dense clusters around the stem above the leaf axils; leaves grey-green, opposite, woolly and aromatic, and stems 4-angled.

Dispersal: Mostly by fruit with hooks that attach to wool, fur, bags and other material.

Autumn is the time to start pulling or chipping out horehound. It is easy to pull when it is young, especially after the rains. As it grows larger you will need to use a shovel or mattock to chip out the taproot. It is important to keep this weed under control.

Wild Oats



Grass

This highly competitive grassy weed grows prolifically in the Village and seeds readily. It can be removed with a good tug at the base and should be wherever possible – especially in the mounds and cobbled areas where it doesn't get slashed – as it sucks up the limited moisture, inhibits the growth of desirable plants, and looks terrible.

Wild oats are annuals that germinate in autumn/ winter and flower in August to December. It frequently crosses with other related grass species creating a very varied complex of weedy biotypes. Wild oats are hard seeded, but few seeds survive for more than 3 years.